

59TH INAUGURATION CEREMONIES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today, before the American people and the world, the peaceful transfer of power that has helped define our Nation for more than 230 years was carried out. We swore in the 46th President and the 49th Vice President of the United States.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS are both alumni of the U.S. Senate. They are well known to us in this Chamber. They begin their terms with both challenges and opportunities before them, and with the prayers of our whole Nation at their backs.

President Biden made unity the major theme of his inaugural address. He pledged to be a President for all Americans, to work as hard for the many millions of Americans who did not support his candidacy as he will for the millions who did. So I congratulate my friend from Delaware. I look forward to working with him as our new President wherever possible.

Our country deserves for both sides, both parties, to find common ground for the common good everywhere that we can and disagree respectfully where we must. Last fall, the American people chose to elect a narrowly divided House of Representatives, a 50-50 Senate, and a President who promised unity. The people intentionally entrusted both political parties with significant power to shape our Nation's direction. May we work together to honor that trust.

Earlier today, I was honored to present our former colleague, Vice President HARRIS, with a flag that flew over her historic swearing in as our Nation's first woman Vice President. This groundbreaking achievement elicits national pride that transcends politics. All citizens can applaud the fact that this new three-word phrase, "Madam Vice President," is now a part of our American lexicon. So, once again, our sincere congratulations to our former colleague from California on this day.

I also join my colleagues in warmly welcoming our three newest Senators. Senator PADILLA of California and Senators OSSOFF and WARNOCK of Georgia have been sent to this Chamber by their home States to represent their neighbors and to serve our Nation. We have plenty of Senate business to discuss at length in the days ahead, but, for now, I just want to congratulate each of our new colleagues. I look forward to working alongside them.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 2 minutes to speak, please, for two purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

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Mr. GRASSLEY. One, I congratulate my friend, PATRICK LEAHY for once again assuming the position of President pro tempore after 6 years of absence, I believe, and also to express my working relationship with him in the 40 years that he and I have served together in the U.S. Senate.

But also to the fourth estate, because we always read about rancor on television, radio, and print—they never speak about how Senators get along. We have seen a peaceful transfer of leadership position in the U.S. Senate, from a Senator from Kentucky to a Senator from New York.

Now, for the first purpose of rising, because most of my colleagues don't know, when there is nobody on the Senate and I open the Senate up for prayer and for the Pledge of Allegiance, I usually give a 1-minute speech. And I would like to give my last 1-minute speech as President pro tempore. I am not saying that I won't take advantage of that opportunity when nobody else is around, as well.

Four years ago, our Nation's Capital was full of people who had come to celebrate a new President's inauguration, and it was full of people who came to protest the winner of that election.

This Biden inauguration was different in that respect. But this year, just like 4 years ago, there are Americans who question the election outcome and did not want the inauguration to proceed. Since election day, I have urged Americans to have faith in our constitutional system and let the Constitution work the way it has for 240 years—work its course. Today was the culmination of that process.

Like 4 years ago, I know that many Americans are not happy with how it turned out. That is absolutely fine, just like 4 years ago was fine for those people that resisted.

In our country, nobody is obliged to like or support a President, but, hopefully, people will really respect the Office of the Presidency, regardless who holds it.

However, while the Presidency changed hands, I hope we can retire, hashtag "resist."

You wouldn't know it listening to partisan commentators from the right or left, but you do not have to make a choice between giving your President unqualified support or total opposition to the President.

As a legislator, I would be doing a disservice to those I represent if I did either unqualified support for a Republican President or total opposition to a Democratic President. In my work on behalf of Iowans, I have to engage with the administration of the day if I want to be a responsible Senator.

As I have with every President, I will seek to find common ground with President Biden wherever possible, but I will strongly oppose policies that I think are not good for Iowa and all Americans. That will be on input that I receive from my fellow Iowans.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier today I was proud to join my colleagues in witnessing the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS on the west front of the U.S. Capitol.

I remembered, as I walked away from that inauguration ceremony, the experience I had 4 years ago. There was a luncheon. Traditionally there is a luncheon given for the new President and Vice President. That luncheon was my first opportunity to meet President Donald Trump. I had never met him before.

I went up to him at the head table, and I introduced myself and said: I just want to tell you that I am working in the U.S. Senate for the DREAM Act. I believe that these Dreamers deserve a chance to become part of America's future.

President Donald Trump, minutes after having taken the oath of office, said: Senator, don't worry about those young people. We will take care of them.

That was my first conversation with President Trump. What transpired afterwards is a matter of record in the history of this country. We know also what happened in this Capitol Building just 2 weeks ago.

That is why this inauguration was so different. We were battling a deadly virus and possibly a deadly attack by American terrorists. The U.S. Capitol was as closely guarded as I have ever seen it. We estimate that 25,000 soldiers—National Guard and Active-Duty soldiers—were in town to protect us from all around the United States, including 260 from the State of Illinois, I am very proud to announce. They did their job and did it well. I thank them for their service and sacrifice and separation from their families. But at the same time, we are facing a deadly virus. In the midst of a global pandemic, today's celebration had to be tempered so that people were safe from wherever they sat and from wherever they gathered.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS understand that our Nation